

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:BBMORTON:MP

APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS

OSD - CDR J.R. MOORE(SUBSTANCE)

NEA/P - M. VANORDER

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH(INFO)

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O R 042306Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO CARMISH/MAAG TEHRAN

DEF REP IRAN

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJECT: MEDIA GUIDANCE ON CANCELLATION OF SPRUANCE ORDER

1. RECENT TOUFANIAN VISIT, REDUCED IRANIAN PURCHASING POWER AND POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION OF FUTURE IRANIAN ARMS SPENDING AND OF CANCELLATION OF EXISTING ORDERS HAVE BECOME ITEMS OF CONSIDERABLE MEDIA INTEREST SINCE JANUARY 27 EVANS/NOVAK COLUMN. (WIRELESS FILE CONTAINS EXCERPTS OF PACE AND FINNEY ARTICLES FROM FEBRUARY 4 NEW YORK TIMES.) MAIN ATTENTION IS CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON SPRUANCE PROGRAM AND WHAT CUTS MAY BE MADE IN IT. WE HAVE SO FAR TAKEN LINE THAT IRANIAN UNHAPPINESS OVER REDUCED OIL LIFTINGS AND COSTS OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND THAT THESE ISSUES WERE NATURALLY DISCUSSED DURING TOUFANIAN

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VISIT, IN THE SPIRIT OF FRANK DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS THAT

IS PART OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND
IRAN.

2. DOD INFORMS US THAT IN CONVERSATION WITH DEFREP IRAN
REPORTED BY TELEPHONE, GENERAL TOUFANIAN SAID THAT HE
WOULD LEAVE HANDLING OF RELEASE OF INFORMATION ON SPRUANCE

UP TO USG. IF PRESSED ON SPRUANCE QUESTION, AS WE EXPECT
TO BE, WE PROPOSE TO SAY THAT GOI HAS DECIDED TO REDUCE
THEIR PURCHASE OF SPRUANCE-CLASS SHIPS FROM SIX TO FOUR
UNITS. ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS WILL BE DIRECTED TO
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

3. PLEASE INFORM US BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM IF YOU FORESEE
ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS APPROACH. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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